On average, a teen watches twenty-eight hours of television per week, adding up to almost 15,000 hours a year, (that’s more hours than we attend school). Studies have shown that most of the hours spent watching TV is spent on vulgar shows such as Jersey Shore, Keeping Up With the Kardashians, and Family Guy.

These numbers may seem overwhelming but the fact is that teenagers just can’t get enough of the crude humor in these shows and the question is…why?

When you ask any teenager why they watch a show like Jersey Shore, you typically will get an answer like “It’s hilarious!” or “I don’t know, they are all just good role models of who not to be like I guess.” But why not watch something different then? There are plenty of humorous television shows. There is a certain reason why students are choosing to turn on MTV rather than the Discovery Channel or Animal Planet.

“Well reality TV gives us an opportunity to live through a group of people we have nothing in common with, in situations we would never confront in our normal, day-to-day lives! I don’t know about everyone else, but I certainly don’t go clubbing every night. I find it fascinating,” said senior Alexandra Mead.

The fact of the matter is that reality TV really is not reality, and that makes it all the more attractive. Escaping reality for teens is one of the biggest struggles in high school, and watching something like Keeping Up With the Kardashians has students thinking, “wow, my life really isn’t as screwed up as I thought; It could definitely be a lot worse!”

On the other hand, some students feel like cast members on these shows are good role models and find pop culture and a life of partying glamorous.

“I love Snooki! I mean, if she can become rich from just going out with friends every night and acting inappropriately then, why can’t I?” said sophomore Valeria Coruzzi.

While some students don’t see any problem with vulgar television, the truth is that we're not hooking up with our room-mates (or at least we shouldn't be). We won't get into serious fistfights with our friends. The reason students love shows like Jersey Shore is because we don't relate to it at all. It seems completely foreign to us, in every way imaginable, and therein lies the appeal of the show.

Well, it's either that or we just seek entertainment, and it's hard to deny that a show like Jersey Shore isn't entertaining, at least in a "wow, I'm watching a train-wreck live on television" kind of way.